

roads and bridges. It is airports and rails and subway systems, it is mass and public transit, but it is also communications, it is also the energy grid.

We have a system that was designed for regional activity with monopolies, and now we are transmitting electrons, wheeling electrons from region to region, State to State, nation to nation. So upgrades are essential. An infrastructure bank bill could assist in great ways to make that all happen.

Today, again with the visit of Vice President BIDEN to the 20th Congressional District of New York, specifically to Albany, the history of the Erie Canal was addressed. In the early 1800s, a huge effort was made, a difficult task, to sell an idea in very difficult times. But it was again in those difficult times that we had our shining moment, and what we did was create out of a small town a huge port. We developed a New York City that we know today as a robust area, metropolitan area. And the corresponding result: a necklace of communities dubbed "mill towns" that became the epicenters of invention and innovation that allowed for a manufacturing boom to take hold. While we addressed quality of life to people, not just in New York, not just in this country, we inspired a westward movement, and we affected the quality of life of people around the world.

Often-times—often-times—that growth, that innovation came from blue collar workers who gave it their all and who suggested to management, here is a new idea, here is something we can produce in addition to our ongoing ordinary business.

So what that strikes in my mind is the need to invest in R&D, research dollars that translate into jobs, taking that innovation, that intellectual capacity of this Nation, taking all of that brain power we develop through education and higher ed investment and putting it to work and allowing us to grow our energy independence by innovation, by producing energy supplies here as American power and delivering in more effective, efficient ways where there isn't line laws, where perhaps there is grid system activity that is localized close to the source that requires that electricity. Many, many things that we can respond to if we open ourselves to the innovation, the reform that is essential, and if we attach to that tax reform policy that is so long overdue.

It has been a pleasure to join with my colleagues here this evening.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, somehow I knew from previous experience here on the floor that you were going to mention the Erie Canal.

Mr. TONKO. The Vice President mentioned it too.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And he did too.

So actually, before the Erie Canal it was George Washington that laid out an economic growth agenda for the United States. He asked Alexander Hamilton to prepare a policy on manufacturing, or manufactures as they called it there. Part of it was the development of a canal system, in other words, the infrastructure the ports, the canals, and the roads. In fact, the Constitution says there should be post roads in the United States.

Much to talk about. Make it in America. Use our tax dollars to buy American-made products in these areas: trade, taxes, energy, education, and research.

Oh, by the way, 2 years ago, the President of the United States stood right there in his State of the Union and said, here is an American jobs program. Do you know what he talked about? Every one of these issues.

If this Congress had acted, trains, locomotives, 100 percent American built in Sacramento, California, and a new contract coming up for even more of these state-of-the-art locomotives.

Mr. HORSFORD, end the lightning round, and then we will turn this back to the Speaker.

Mr. HORSFORD. I just want to conclude by ending where you started, which is on creating economic mobility for all Americans.

When we talk about innovation, job creation, growing the economy, we are talking about growing an economy that works for all Americans, for people who are in the middle class, most importantly, because they are the engines of our economy, but also those who are striving to be part of the middle class.

That is why assistance for unemployment insurance and extending unemployment insurance is so important. It is why providing nutrition assistance programs for families when they are in need is important, because they are creators in moving people out of poverty and into the middle class; and it is what we are focused on when we talk about making it in America.

We are not saying make it in America for the top 1 percent of the wealthy-

est, the elite. We are focused on those who are the engines, who are the backbone, who have made America great. We can do big things if we work together as a body to do that.

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I know that is what my colleagues are aspiring to do. I am proud to join you here tonight, and I will continue to work with you and with anybody from either party who is focused on growing our economy and on creating true economic mobility for all Americans.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HORSFORD, thank you so very, very much.

Mr. TONKO, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to present a true American agenda.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HECK of Nevada (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of mandatory military duty.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today through January 16 on account of surgical recovery.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the remainder of January on account of medical reasons.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family medical emergency.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1614. To require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROBERT KAREM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 31 AND NOV. 9, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert Story Karem	10/31	11/2	Lebanon		425.40						425.40